FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE CITY OF NEWPORT
WILL HOLD A PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION
ON THE MODIFIED CURBSIDE COMPOSTABLES COLLECTION SERVICE TO BE
PROVIDED BY THOMPSON'S SANITARY SERVICE

The City Council of the City of Newport will hold a public comment session to hear input from citizens regarding the modified curbside compostable collection service that would be provided by Thompson's Sanitary Service. The forum will be held on Monday, March 17, 2014, at 6:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers at the Newport City Hall, 169 SW Coast Highway, Newport, Oregon.

Since this service was first discussed by the City Council in April of 2013, there has been a significant amount of time spent to develop a program that would meet the Council's goal of reducing the volume of waste going into landfill and meeting the City Municipal Code provisions to recover resource materials from the waste stream where possible.

As a result the City Council and City Administration, working with Thompson's Sanitary Service, has held two work sessions to consider modifications to the program address concerns expressed by the public during previous public comment periods. The most common concern was expressed by curbside customers who had very low volumes of household garbage generated on a weekly basis (senior citizens, single people and others who generated a limited amount of refuse). The program, as modified, will provide those customers who choose to use a 24 gallon household garbage cart an opportunity to opt out of the composting program. These customers would see a reduction in current costs to \$19.15 per month. All other customers will be required to participate in the compostable collection program to both meet the objective of diverting curbside compostable waste from the landfill and to create a model for financial sustainability of this service.

A second change proposed for this program is to allow in option regarding the size of compostable carts for Thompson's Sanitary Service customers. Customers now can choose a smaller 65 gallons roll cart instead of the standard 96 gallon roll cart based on the modified plan. This is being done to address concerns about storage areas for these carts.

Finally, the rates for residential service will be adjusted by \$6.59 per month upon implementation of this program, except for those who elect to use a 24 gallon cart and opt out of the curbside compostables program. Thompson's Sanitary Service will not be requesting a rate adjustment for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

If approved by the City Council the Curbside Compostables Collection program will be initiated during the summer of 2014 for curbside collection of household garbage and recyclables.

The monthly cost for comprehensive household waste services for residents of the City of Newport are proposed to be as follows with initiation of the service:

<u>Curbside Waste Disposal, Recycling and Compostable (food and yard waste)</u>

24 gallon weekly roll cart \$25.74

35 gallon weekly roll cart \$26.94

35 gallon monthly roll cart \$23.24

65 gallon weekly roll cart \$46.84

65 gallon monthly roll cart \$38.84

Curbside Waste Disposal, and Recycling (no compostables)

24 gallon weekly roll cart \$19.15

The public is invited to provide comments on the proposed Modified Curbside Compostables Collection Service at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, March 17, 2014 in the City Council Chambers. Written comments can be e-mailed to p.hawker@newportoregon.gov. and by mail or in person to City of Newport, 169 SW Coast Highway, Newport, Oregon, 97365. After considering any final comments on this program, the city Council will either authorize the compostables program, modify the compostables program or on not to go forward with a program at this time.